



# MY FINANCIAL ADVOCATE

We C.U.™



*“I am worried about the economy, but ... not sure how it affects my financial health overall.”*

Two years ago this month we launched our **Financial Fitness** tests. With the economy in its present state it is time to take a long, hard look at your own economic health. Over the past two years, many members have taken the tests and we encourage an annual financial fitness check-up. If you have not taken all of the tests yet, it's time. If you have, but it's been a while, it's time to redo them. Go to [mycreditunion.ca](http://mycreditunion.ca) and click on the **Get Financially Fit** icon, or come into the branch and pick up a worksheet for each test.

### The Economy and Your Financial Fitness

Every change in the economy affects financial fitness. Even if you are not worried about your job and are in good financial shape there are still effects.

#### Savings

This is the key concern for many members. With deposit rates and stock market values so low, your financial fitness is affected in several ways. First, your **Financial Strength** declines as your savings are reduced. Take the **Financial Strength** test to figure out what your savings gap is and redo your savings budget to reflect interest rate changes or decreases in the value of your investment portfolio. Second, since savings are considered an asset, the **Financial Balance & Agility** tests are also affected negatively.

#### Borrowing

Interest rates are down which is a good thing for your **Financial Cardio & Flexibility** tests. If you have been able to renegotiate your mortgage at renewal, you are likely reaping the rewards of a lower interest rate. What do you do with the difference? To get out of debt faster it is advised to maintain your current payment and pay your mortgage off sooner. If you have decreased your payment, make other healthy choices like increasing your savings budget or paying down higher rate debt.

#### Housing Prices

The **Financial Balance** test is where you will find the most significant hit to your financial health when it comes to any decrease in the value of your home. Your home is one of your biggest assets and losing value is a blow to your financial balance. For many individuals who were using their home as their retirement savings vehicle the economic downturn has been especially difficult. Look at your **Financial Balance** test and work with your financial planner to figure out ways to recover as quickly as possible.

#### Increasing Prices at the Pump and the Store

Budgets are hit hard in these economic conditions and your financial cardio test will tell the tale. Look for ways to shore up your budget, decrease spending and increase savings. For the next month track all spending to see where your money is going. Revamp your budget to get your financial cardio back on track.

#### Emergency Funds

Having emergency funds is more important than ever as the economic condition changes on what seems like a daily basis. Take a really good look at your financial agility and consider using any savings you can find to bulk up your emergency fund. While our economy is still considered one that will recover quickest, not all the effects have been felt and recovery will take some time.

As your financial advocate, we are committed to helping you each step of the way. If you need a hand or just want a second opinion, gather all your information (even if it is in a shoebox) and come in, give us a call or drop us a line.

*“A retired member, very concerned about recent declines in her mutual fund portfolio, worried she wouldn't have enough to maintain her lifestyle. Using a financial plan to analyze her investments, debts and income needs, we showed her how she could continue her lifestyle indefinitely and debt free.”*

— As told by one of The Credit Union's Financial Planners

## THE CREDIT UNION MORTGAGE LOAN RATES\*

Collateral Mortgages.....	3.30% to 5.50%
6 Months.....	6.00%
1 Year.....	4.15%
2 Years.....	4.40%
3 Years.....	4.15%
4 Years.....	4.69%
5 Years.....	4.55%

For our current rates go to [mycreditunion.ca](http://mycreditunion.ca) and click on **Rates** from the top of our home page. For information on our mortgage products, click on **Products and Services** and then **Mortgages**.

\*Rates subject to change without notice

**The Credit Union**

For All Government Employees  
Ontario Civil Service Credit Union Ltd.

To save on cost and the environment you will receive a paper copy of the newsletter in September and October this year. Note: The newsletter will be available online monthly at [mycreditunion.ca](http://mycreditunion.ca). If you need a paper copy please contact Member Assistance.

# Pack your Credit Union ATM Card when you hit the road

It is summer and you are getting ready to take your vacation. No need to leave your Credit Union ATM card at home – accessing your accounts is just as easy on the road as it is at home with THE EXCHANGE® Network. As members of THE EXCHANGE® Network our members have access to thousands of machines in Ontario and across Canada.



## Travelling in Canada

Just look for THE EXCHANGE® Network sign on ATMs in Canada. With our new chequing account packages, any withdrawal made at an EXCHANGE® Network ATM is part of your monthly fee. There are no withdrawal fees, no surcharge fees – it is just like using our Credit Union ATMs. If you are not sure where to find the closest EXCHANGE® ATM just go to mycreditunion.ca and click on The Credit Union and THE EXCHANGE® Network ATM Locations on our home page. You can search for available ATMs by city, financial institution or postal code. If you have not had a chance to find the ATM closest to your home or work you can do that as well.

## Travelling in the U.S.

Crossing the border? Look for the ACCEL®/ THE EXCHANGE® Network sign on ATMs across the U.S. Most ATMs in the U.S. are surcharge-free, but there are a few states where additional fees may apply. Look for the No SUR! symbol in the U.S. at participating ATMs. The Credit Union does charge an additional fee for ATM withdrawals in the U.S. If your withdrawal is from your chequing or daily interest savings account the transaction does not count against your monthly transaction limit. Check our service fee schedule online at mycreditunion.ca and click on Fees for more details.

Planning on shopping on your vacation? The Credit Union is also a member of the ACCEL® Point of Sale (POS) Network which is one of the largest POS (debit card purchases) networks in the U.S. with over 1,000,000 debit machines. This means you may use your Credit Union ATM card at POS debit machines, using your PIN number. You can get a list of U.S. retailers using the ACCEL® Network by going to [www.accelexchange.com](http://www.accelexchange.com) and click on the Participating Retailers tab. Making purchases from your chequing account will mean a 30¢ fee at the time of transaction but it will not count against your transaction limit. Any purchases made from your daily interest savings account will count towards the transaction limit and additional charges may apply. Check our service fee schedule online at mycreditunion.ca and click on Fees for more details.



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## Go to mycreditunion.ca for:

- Questions to ask your mortgage lender
- The Personal – New rules for entering the U.S. by land or water

## Keeping your ATM Card protected

Summer time and the living is easy ... which is often when we let our guard down. You cannot take a vacation from protecting yourself from debit card fraud, so here are a number of tips to keep your debit card safe so you can keep relaxing in the sun. You wouldn't keep blank, signed cheques in your wallet or lying around your hotel room, so be as protective with your PIN.

- Memorize your PIN, do not share it, do not write it down or use a common combination of numbers like your phone number, birthday or age. Change it if you think someone has figured it out, and notify your financial institution immediately if there is any unusual activity on your account.
- If your ATM card is lost or stolen call your financial institution immediately to cancel your card and have it re-issued.
- Always shield your PIN from prying eyes when making an ATM or debit transaction.
- Always keep your card in sight when completing a debit card transaction and only let your card be swiped once.
- Check your online statement and balances carefully. If there are any suspicious or unexpected transactions contact your financial institution right away.
- Conduct ATM and debit card transactions when and where you feel secure. If you feel at all hesitant do not make the transaction.

**The Credit Union**  
For All Government Employees  
Ontario Civil Service Credit Union Ltd.

**We C.U.™**



## With your group you have privileges



FOR YOUR HOME AND AUTO,  
ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF PREFERRED RATES AND EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Thanks to The Personal and the Ontario Civil Service Credit Union Ltd., you have access to home and auto group insurance. Why not take advantage of it?

Get a quote:

**1-888-476-8737**

[thepersonal.com/mycreditunion](http://thepersonal.com/mycreditunion)

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**thePersonal**  
Home and Auto Group Insurance

Certain conditions apply.  
Auto insurance is not available in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or British Columbia due to government-run plans.

**Member Assistance:**  
416 314-6772 or 1888 516-6664  
[memberassistance@mycreditunion.ca](mailto:memberassistance@mycreditunion.ca)

**Transactions by Phone:**  
416 325-6818 or  
1 800 387-0602

18 Grenville Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3B3

[mycreditunion.ca](http://mycreditunion.ca)